

To whom it may concern:I would like to harken back to an earlier day, when things were "simpler."

In the late 70's, early 80's, personal Video Cassette Recorders were beginning to be introduced to the public. Several industries screamed about how it was going to kill them. The advertising industry said that people would just fast forward through their advertisements, and begged the Federal Government to disallow fast forward buttons. The movie industry claimed that they would be destroyed, because people would just tape their movies off broadcast television.

Now, given that the advertising and movie industries are still around, lets question why.

Advertising is still around. Why? Because there is still live TV programs that taping is prohibitively silly for. Because people are inherently lazy, and don't wish to go buy/rent/make a tape of a movie that is coming on TV soon.

The movie industry is still around. Why? Because they're making millions on VHS sales. Because they can make back some money on box office flops when the movie goes to tape. Because copies made off TV are of inferior quality to purchased copies.

So, it sounds like everybody wins here, right? Not just the consumer, not just any one industry, but **everybody**.

The broadcast flag is just the media companies' paranoia surfacing. If I really like a movie, I buy the DVD, I don't just keep the "pirated" copy. In fact "piracy" has exposed me and many others to media that we wouldn't have been exposed to originally. There are several "unpopular" artists, on every medium, who are quite talented. Things like the Broadcast Flag would provide a barrier to entry for them. Copyright law was designed to "Encourage [the] Arts," don't use it to stifle them.

So remember, the Broadcast Flag is BAD. Its bad for consumers, its bad for corporations and its bad for artists.

Please, send down a resounding "NO" to this proposition.

Peter C. Gravelle